

NEWS



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MAYOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

John F. Street, Mayor
Joe Grace, Acting Director of Communications
www.phila.gov

City Hall - Room 216
Philadelphia, PA 19107
Phone: 215-686-6210
Fax: 215-686-2170

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Mayor Street and More Than 100 Ministers Visit Philadelphia Prisons on New Years Day With Messages of Hope and Redemption

Philadelphia, PA – Mayor John F. Street and more than 100 ministers from across the City spent New Years Day visiting inmates at Philadelphia prisons, delivering messages of hope and redemption and urging the inmates to turn their lives around.

“More than 35,000 men and women are discharged from our City prisons each year,” Mayor Street said. “We have a responsibility and obligation to help these individuals re-enter society. Upon their release, some of these inmates will contact the clergy members who visited them today and seek spiritual guidance. We’re trying to help push them in the right direction.”

Prisons officials estimated Mayor Street and the ministers visited and spoke with several thousand inmates during the visits – the sixth consecutive New Years Day that the Mayor and clergy have visited the prisons. The contingent visited both men and women inmates.

Mayor Street and the ministers were joined in visiting the inmates by Prisons Commissioner Leon King and other prison officials.

Earlier in the morning, prior to the prisons visits, Mayor Street met with more than 100 ministers from an array of denominations and churches, at the View building at 800 N. Broad Street, hosted by Reverend Herb Lusk II, of Greater Exodus Baptist Church.

Rev. Lusk thanked Mayor Street and Governor Edward G. Rendell for their help and their leadership in obtaining the building for \$1 over a decade ago. The church has spent \$5 Million rehabilitating the View, which houses many of Rev. Lusk’s ministries and social

service programs. "It is amazing what a dollar can do for you when you work at it," Rev. Lusk told the crowd.

Mayor Street was introduced at the breakfast by former Mayor W. Wilson Goode, who noted the Mayor's leadership on the annual prisons visits and said, "The true mark of a leader is not his ability to rub shoulders with the equally famous, but rather his willingness to reach out and touch and help those who are truly in need."

At the breakfast, Mayor Street said, "It's God's will that we go to the prisons and bring a message of love and a message of hope. I believe it will inspire the people in our prisons to do better and to experience a new beginning in 2007."

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